

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please substitute paragraph [0001], at page 1, lines 3 - 5, as follows:

This application is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. patent application, Serial No. 09/944,968, filed on August 31, 2001 entitled, "Shingle Granule Valve And Method Of Depositing Granules Onto A Moving Substrate" now U.S. Patent No. 6,610,147 issued August 26, 2003.

Please substitute paragraph [0011], at page 3, lines 19 – 21, as follows:

My copending application, Serial No. 09/944,968, " now U.S. Patent No. 6,610,147 issued August 26, 2003, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, describes an improved valve for depositing granules, which provides improved efficiency, precision and control over the deposition of granules.

Please substitute paragraph [0016], at page 3, lines 19 – 21, as follows:

According to this invention there is also provided a method of depositing granules onto a moving substrate. The method includes providing a hopper for containing granules, the hopper having a discharge slot, and moving a gate across the slot to open and close the slot. When the slot is open granules fall from the hopper, and when the slot is closed granules are prevented from falling from the hopper. The method further includes controlling the acceleration rate of the gate during the opening of the slot so that the acceleration rate does not exceed about 4 g, where g is the acceleration of gravity.

Please substitute paragraph [0043], at page 11, lines 17 – 28, as follows:

There are reasons for limiting the acceleration rate of the gate. Acceleration of the gate during opening of the slot at too high a rate can cause an undesirable initial slug or excess amount of granules. Also, when the gate is closed, excessive acceleration rates for the gate will knock more of the granules into the contact with the chute 52, thereby disturbing the visual uniformity of the granules at the rear or tail of the blend drop. Finally, some blend

drop patterns may require different velocities and acceleration rates for the gate. Although

the acceleration and deceleration rates may be greater, it is preferred that the acceleration and deceleration rates be kept at a level lower than about 4 g, where g is the acceleration of gravity, and more preferably at less than about 3 g, and even more preferably at approximately 2 g. Also, preferably the velocity of the gate during the closing of the slot is controlled so that it does not exceed about 130 ft./min (39.624 cm). This minimizes the amount of granules that are scattered by the leading edge of the gate.

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